

**VA RR&D Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN)
Providence VA Medical Center
Request for Proposals – Spring 2021
CfNN Seed Project Funding**

The VA RR&D Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN) is inviting submissions for seed funding. The purpose of this request for proposals is to encourage the development of VA-based projects that will lead to a VA Merit Review Award, SPIRE, or Career Development Award (CDA) and foster collaboration with early-stage investigators. CfNN's mission is to discover, design, develop, and deploy novel neurotechnologies and device-based therapies that advance the rehabilitation of Veterans and others with impairments in mobility, communication, mental health, and limb function.

Applicants may request up to \$40,000. All funds must be utilized within 12 months of award approval. All supplies or equipment funds must be spent at the VA. Personnel may be included; non-VA personnel must be eligible for and will require an IPA.

We encourage applications, together with VA PIs, from faculty and post docs at hospital and academic affiliates including Brown, URI, Lifespan, Care New England and MGH whose research resonates with the CfNN mission. Although the *submitting* PI must have a VA appointment at the time of application, project effort can be focused on supporting senior or junior investigators (post-docs, Investigators, Assistant Professors) from an academic or hospital affiliate, toward the goal of expanding the community of researchers engaged in VA rehabilitation research.

Letter of Intent (LOI): A letter of intent is not required, however a CfNN Focus Area Lead must approve development and submission of the seed project application.

CfNN Focus Area Leads:

Focus Area 1 (FA1): Restoring Communication and Mobility - [John Simeral, PhD](#)

Focus Area 2 (FA2): Restoring Affective & Cognitive Health - [Noah Philip, MD](#)

Focus Area 3 (FA3): Restoring Limb Function - [Linda Resnik, PT, PhD](#)

Application drafts are due to the Focus Area Lead on or before April 20, 2021. The Focus Area Lead may request changes to the application.

Full applications signed by the FA Lead must be received by Kate Barnabe by 3:00pm on May 4, 2021.

Application Process

All requests must:

- Align with at least one of the CfNN Focus Areas.
- Demonstrate that the work is relevant to Veterans health and will be performed at least in part at Providence VAMC facilities.
- Applications should specify what will be accomplished within the financial and time scope of the proposal.
- Include a PI with VA Appointment (MD or PhD)

Review criteria will include:

- Benefit of the research to Veterans with neurologic/psychiatric disease or injury.
- Likelihood to lead to VA Merit Review, SPiRE or Career Development Awards.
- Preference given to applications including junior investigators without current VA funding and with an indicated pathway to VA research funding.

Budget

- Budgets can cross VA Fiscal Years.
- Please contact Kate Barnabe (kate.barnabe@va.gov or 401-273-7100 x16272 to review your proposed budget.

Applicants should email the Signed Coversheet and Research Proposal (4 pages including tables and figures, using Arial 11, 1 inch margins) to kate.barnabe@va.gov by 3:00pm on May 4, 2021.

Awards will be announced by June 1st and project start dates may begin as soon as all applicable committee approvals are received. All CfNN funded projects must be reviewed/routed by the CfNN Core C Lead, Mr. Steven Magnanti. It is advised to start the committee applications early. No funds may be spent until the full VA R&D Committee approval is in place.